

REMARKS

Applicant is in receipt of the Office Action mailed July 30, 2004. Claims 1-36 were rejected. Applicant has cancelled claims 1-36 and submitted new claims 37-63. Therefore, claims 37-63 remain pending in the application.

Claims 1-36 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Norden-Paul et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,247,611), hereinafter “Norden-Paul.” Applicant respectfully submits that claims 37-63 are patentable over Norden-Paul in light of the following remarks.

In regard to claim 37, Applicant respectfully submits that Norden-Paul does not teach or suggest “receiving user input to hide the first sub-column; and redisplaying the column on the display screen in response to the receiving the user input to hide the first sub-column, wherein the redisplaying the column on the display screen comprises: displaying the second sub-column and the column label; and omitting the first sub-column from the redisplayed column.” Norden-Paul discloses a spreadsheet having a plurality of cells, wherein cells may contain multiple fields of data. In col. 5, lines 19-20, Norden-Paul discloses an optional field 125 within a cell. However, the optional fields shown in Fig. 2 and Fig. 3 of Norden-Paul are not located in a sub-column of a column, such that “[a] first sub-column is displayed alongside [a] second sub-column” in the column. Instead, each of Norden-Paul’s optional fields is located at the bottom of its respective cell and is not displayed alongside any other data in the same column. Furthermore, as illustrated in Fig. 2, the optional fields are displayed or hidden on a cell-by-cell basis, not a column-by-column or sub-column-by-sub-column basis. Therefore, Norden-Paul does not teach or suggest that the optional fields are in a sub-column, comprising a “set of fields displayed vertically in a plurality of rows” and “displayed alongside [a] second sub-column,” which can be hidden or omitted in response to user input to hide the sub-column.

At col. 6, lines 33-41, Norden-Paul discloses the optional display of annotations which are associated with particular “notational” cells. As shown in Figs. 5-7 of Norden-Paul, these annotations may be displayed in separate forms or windows not within the standard spreadsheet matrix of rows and columns. In the examples shown in Figs. 5-7, for example, each annotation is overlaid atop multiple columns and rows of the underlying spreadsheet matrix. In other words, the notations in Norden-Paul are not “a first set of data in a first sub-column ... [comprising] a first set of fields displayed vertically in a plurality of rows,” and the notations are not hidden or omitted in response to user input to hide a sub-column.

In regard to claim 39, Applicant respectfully submits that Norden-Paul does not teach or suggest “wherein the displaying the column comprises: displaying a first field label atop the first sub-column and below the column label; and displaying a second field label atop the second sub-column, below the column label, and alongside the first field label; and wherein the redisplaying the column comprises displaying the second field label atop the second sub-column and below the column label.” Norden-Paul does not teach or suggest the display of multiple field labels within a single column and in addition to a column label.

In regard to claim 40, Applicant respectfully submits that Norden-Paul does not teach or suggest “wherein the redisplaying the column comprises omitting the first field label from the redisplayed column.” Norden-Paul does not teach or suggest the use of field labels within a column, wherein a field label can be omitted upon redisplay.

The remaining claims are similar to, or provide additional limitations to, the claims discussed above. For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicant submits that claims 37-63 are in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the §103(a) rejections.

CONCLUSION

Applicant submits the application is in condition for allowance, and an early notice to that effect is requested.

If any extensions of time (under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136) are necessary to prevent the above referenced application(s) from becoming abandoned, Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extensions. If any fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge said fees to Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC Deposit Account No. 50-1505/5676-00600/JCH.

Also enclosed herewith are the following items:

- ☒ Return Receipt Postcard
- ☒ Notice of Change of Address

Respectfully submitted,



Jeffrey C. Hood
Reg. No. 35,198
ATTORNEY FOR APPLICANT(S)

Meyertons, Hood, Kivlin, Kowert & Goetzel PC
P.O. Box 398
Austin, TX 78767-0398
Phone: (512) 853-8800
Date: November 3, 2004